IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for compressing the representation of a sequence of points in a space, the method comprising:

dividing a sequence of points into segments of successive points;

determining a compression size for each of the segments, wherein the compression size varies based on ~~information in~~ a number of bits needed to represent each segment; [[and]]

compressing each of the segments into the compression size for each segment; and

combining the compressed segments into a data stream.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of dividing comprises

dividing a sequence of points into segments of S successive points.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2, wherein before the step of dividing, the following step is performed:

determining the value of S.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of determining the value of S comprises

generating multiple compressions of the sequence, each of the multiple compressions at a different value of S.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of determining the value of S comprises

generating a compression of the sequence for each value of S from a minimum to a maximum.

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6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of determining the value of S comprises

generating a compression of the sequence for each value of S from a minimum of two (2) to a maximum equal to the number of points in the sequence.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of determining the value of S comprises

generating multiple compressions of the sequence, each of the multiple compressions at a different value of S; and

determining the value of S to be the value of S generating the smallest of the multiple compressions.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of compressing comprises

compressing each of the segments of S successive, i-bit points into segments of j-bit points, where $j <= i$.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the value of j may vary from segment to segment.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein, for any given segment, j is the minimum number of bits necessary to represent the data in that given segment.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of compressing comprises

determining the largest coordinate in any dimension of any point in a segment;

setting j for the segment to the ceiling of the base-2 log of that largest coordinate; and

truncating from points of the segment most significant bits exceeding j bits.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the sequence of points is an electronic signature.

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13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of compressing comprises

compressing each of the segments without losing any of the data in any of the segments.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of compressing comprises

compressing each of the segments, losing data as directed by an invoking user.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein before the step of dividing the following step is performed:

converting DrawTo data to relative-movement data.

16. (Original) A method for compressing an electronic signature, the method comprising:

dividing an electronic signature comprising a sequence of i-bit points into segments of successive points numbering S;

compressing each of the segments into segments of j-bit points without losing any of the data in the signature by

determining the largest coordinate in any dimension of any point in a segment;

setting j for the segment to the ceiling of the base-2 log of that largest coordinate; and

truncating from points of the segment most significant bits exceeding j bits.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein before the step of dividing, the following steps are performed:

converting DrawTo data to relative-movement data;

generating multiple compressions of the sequence, each of the multiple compressions at a different value of S; and

determining the value of S to be the value of S generating the smallest of the

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multiple compressions.

18. (Currently Amended) A data store wherein is located a computer program for compressing the representation of a sequence of points in a space by:

dividing a sequence of points into segments of successive points;

determining a compression size for each of the segments, wherein the compression size varies based on ~~information in~~ a number of bits needed to represent each segment; [[and]]

compressing each of the segments into the compression size for each segment; and

~~combining the compressed segments into a data stream.~~

19. (Original) A data store wherein is located a computer program for compressing an electronic signature by:

dividing an electronic signature comprising a sequence of i-bit points into segments of successive points numbering S;

compressing each of the segments into segments of j-bit points without losing any of the data in the signature by

determining the largest coordinate in any dimension of any point in a segment;

setting j for the segment to the ceiling of the base-2 log of that largest coordinate; and

truncating from points of the segment most significant bits exceeding j bits.

20. (Original) The data store of claim 19, wherein the computer program compresses an electronic signature by, before the step of dividing:

converting Draw/To data to relative-movement data;

generating multiple compressions of the sequence, each of the multiple

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compressions at a different value of S; and

    determining the value of S to be the value of S generating the smallest of the multiple compressions.

21. (Currently amended) A compressor for compressing the representation of a sequence of points in a space, comprising:

    a data store wherein is located a computer program for compressing the representation of the sequence of points in the space by:

        dividing the sequence of points into segments of successive points;

        determining a compression size for each of the segments, wherein the compression size varies based on information in a number of bits needed to represent each segment;

        compressing each of the segments into the compression size for each segment; and

        combining the compressed segments into a data stream.

    a CPU for executing the computer program in the data store; and

    a link, communicatively coupling the data store and the CPU.

22. (Previously presented) A compressor for compressing an electronic signature, comprising:

    a data store wherein is located a computer program for compressing an electronic signature by:

        dividing an electronic signature comprising a sequence of i-bit points into segments of successive points numbering S;

        compressing each of the segments into segments of j-bit points without losing any of the data in the signature by

        determining the largest coordinate in any dimension of any point in a segment;

        setting j for the segment to the ceiling of the base-2 log of that largest coordinate; and

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truncating from points of the segment most significant bits exceeding j bits;

a CPU for executing the computer program in the data store; and

a link, communicatively coupling the data store and the CPU.

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